

FAQs for Youth Empowerment Grant Programme, 2025-2030

Additions may be made to this document as we receive further questions from applicants.

How can I find out more about how to apply for this grant programme?

Grants Guidance

For more information, please read the [Youth Empowerment Grant Programme Guidance](#) for Applicants.

Meet the Funder

KCSC is hosting a 'Meet the Funder' session online on Monday 16 September at 2pm. This will be an opportunity to ask questions. To register go to: [Meet the Funder Session with Young K&C: Youth Empowerment Grant Programme | Kensington & Chelsea Social Council \(kcsc.org.uk\)](#)

The session will be recorded and made available to view online. Applicants can also ask any questions or clarifications by emailing info@youngkandc.org.uk.

Open House Sessions

Applicants who are applying for a lease at a Council building can also find out more by attending an Open House session on the following dates:

Monday 23 September, 10am – 11am - [Lancaster Youth Hub](#)

Monday 23 September, 11:30am – 12:30pm - [Golborne Youth Club](#)

Tuesday 24 September, 10am – 11am - [Canalside Activity Centre](#)

Tuesday 24 September, 11:45am – 12:45pm - [Little Wormwood Scrubs](#)

Thursday 26 September, 10am – 11am - [Chelsea Youth Club](#)

Thursday 26 September, 11:15am – 12:15pm - [Flashpoint Adventure Playground](#)

Thursday 26 September, 12:30pm – 1:30pm - [Cremorne Activity Centre](#)

Policies and Procedures workshop

Working with children and young people requires high quality policies and procedures. Applicants looking for support to develop their policies and procedures can attend a workshop on policies and procedures on [Thursday 3 October at 11am](#).

What are the key dates for applicants?

- **Tuesday 10 September 2024:** Applications for Main Grants, Small Grants and Making Space open
- **Monday 16 September 2024, 2-4pm:** An online Meet the Funder session to provide an overview of the grants and evaluations process, followed by time for Q&As.
- **W/c 23 September:** Open House sessions for applicants interested in leasing the available buildings. Lancaster Youth Hub, Chelsea Youth Hub, Golborne Youth Club, Canalside and Cremorne Water Sites, Flashpoint Adventure Playground and Little Wormwood Scrubs
- **Friday 8 November 2024, 11.59pm:** Deadline for applications
- **December 2024:** Applicants to the Main Grants fund will be visited by a panel of local young people
- **January/February 2025:** Applicants to the Small Grants and Making Space Grants funds will be visited by a panel of local young people

- **March 2025:** RBKC to complete final sign off on successful applicants and issue contracts
- **1 April 2025:** Grant funded programmes to begin delivery

Who can apply for funding?

This grant programme is open to organisations that are:

- Registered charities or community interest companies (CICs), registered before December 2023
- Have a minimum of 3 unrelated trustees or directors
- Currently delivering services for children and young people, aged 6-19 or up to 25 with SEND, preferably in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC)

What are the aims of this Grant Programme?

These grants will help to sustain local youth and play provision in RBKC and deliver improved outcomes for children and young people in the priority areas identified in our Youth Review:

- Inclusivity
- Learning and employability
- Physical and emotional health and wellbeing
- Safe and secure spaces
- Celebrating and strengthening the sector through meaningful partnerships

This is part of RBKC's overall plan for a Greener, Safer and Fairer borough.

We will also seek to address gaps identified in the youth review including more provision for girls and young women, inclusion of young people with SEND, structured activities for older young people, learning and employment opportunities and greater geographical spread and sufficiency of provision for young people throughout the borough.

You can find further information on the Youth Review at: [2023 RBKC Youth Review](#)

What can I apply for?

The Youth Empowerment Grant Programme consists of 3 grant funding streams for core and project funding. These are:

- Main Grants
- Small Grants
- Making Space

Organisations can apply for all three grant streams and can receive funding for a maximum of 2 out of the 3 grant streams, with the stronger applications being more likely to be successful.

What are the 3 grant funding streams?

Main Grants will provide longer-term core grant funding for organisations delivering play and youth services for children and young people in Kensington and Chelsea, such as local youth clubs and community adventure play.

Organisations can express an interest in leasing council properties:

- Lancaster Youth Hub
- Golborne Youth Club
- Chelsea Youth Hub
- Canalside Centre, with Cremorne Watersports site
- Little Wormwood Scrubs Adventure Playground
- Flashpoint Adventure Playground

Organisations are invited to submit an application to the Main Grants for each site they are proposing to run. Organisation can submit a maximum of 4 applications for the Main Grants.

Small Grants will provide shorter term funding for projects and activities taking place across the sector.

Making Space grants will enable more children and young people, aged from 6 – 25, with special education needs and disabilities to participate in local youth and play services.

There is a full description of each of the funding streams in the [Youth Empowerment Grant Guidance](#).

How do I apply?

Organisations can apply by completing the online application forms via the [Young K&C website](#) and providing the supporting documents that are requested.

[Main Grants application](#)

[Small Grants application](#)

[Making Space application](#)

Organisations applying to deliver at more than one site should complete a separate application form and budget for each of the sites that they are applying for.

What are the criteria for the grant programme?

Applications will be more successful if organisations can demonstrate that they:

- Deliver high quality services and support for children and young people in RBKC
- Have a strong track record in delivering excellent outcomes for local children and young people
- Deliver the priorities of the youth review (set out above)
- Maximise delivery from council owned buildings
- Help to address gaps identified in the youth review including provision for girls and young women, inclusion of young people with SEND, provide more structured activities for older young people, and provide learning and employment opportunities
- Deliver from the south of the borough or wards with high levels of need, maximising sufficiency of play and youth provision and the best possible geographical spread of provision throughout the borough
- Deliver provision for a diverse range of children and young people, including those with SEND, girls, LGBT++, low-income households, looked after children and refugees

- Work in partnership with local stakeholders including libraries, parks, leisure centres, Early Help, Community Safety, voluntary, statutory or private sector providers
- Have clear policies and procedures in place including Safeguarding, health and safety and insurance. All staff must be adequately trained and DBS checked
- Have good communications, including listing details of activities on the Our City website

Organisations applying for the lease for Council owned buildings will need to demonstrate track record in site management and will be required to work with partners to maximise use of the building for young people.

Shortlisted applicants will be visited by a group of local young people as part of the assessment process.

A full description is given in the Youth Empowerment Programme Grants Guidance.

What will young people be looking for?

Young people will be designing their own assessment criteria for applications to all grant programmes. In the past young people have assessed the applications on:

- Facilities, including resources, cleanliness and signage
- Staffing, including their interest and approachability
- Building accessibility

Young people like to meet the staff, be shown around the premises and to hear the views of children and young people who currently use the organisation's services.

What are we looking for in the due diligence checks?

The panel will assess:

- **Supporting documentation;** Safeguarding, Health Safety and risk assessment (including training logs)
- **Track record and references;** Based and delivering locally with up-to-date registration with Charities Commission and or Companies House since Dec 2023; track record of delivery for Young K&C and RBKC
- **Accounts, insurance and trustees;** A diverse board of trustees, accounts submitted on time and adequate reserves and turnover. This is required to determine the financial stability of an organisation to use awarded funds for delivery only.
- **Communications;** Published and public safeguarding and complaints policy as well as published services and contact details

Should there be serious concerns in any of these areas, the panel reserves the right not proceed with the application.

Will the new arrangements fund more services for children and young people from the south of the borough?

One of the findings of the review is that we need to strengthen the offer from the south of the borough, and this will be addressed within the grant making process.

Our aim is to maximise sufficiency of play and youth provision and the best possible geographical spread of provision throughout the borough.

What is the maximum amount we can apply for?

For Main Grants, we have not set a maximum amount. Providers currently funded in this area receive an average of £35,000 - £40,000 per annum. We recognise that there are increased costs for specialist provision including provision such as water sports and provision for young people with SEND.

For Small Grants, organisations will be able to apply for up to £8,000 or up to £10,000 for projects making significant adaptations to support children and young people with SEND.

For Making Space, there is a maximum of £20,000 per annum.

The Youth Empowerment Programme Grants Guidance gives further information about Costs and Budgeting.

How will inflation be considered?

The Council is committed to reviewing the inflationary position at the end of each delivery year. The Council will determine the uplift amounts to the yearly budget in January of each year based on the inflationary pressures being experienced by providers.

Is there going to be a reduction in funding in the new arrangements?

The total budget committed by RBKC for these grants will remain at the same level that was previously allocated for youth and community adventure play, but with an additional increase of 6% inflationary uplift for Year 1 (2025-26).

RBKC has committed to review the budget in the context of inflation with providers year on year.

There is no guarantee of funding for any currently funded youth or community adventure play provider beyond March 2025, as we can't predetermine the decision of the grant making panel.

How will decisions be made?

Each application will be subject to a due diligence process conducted by a panel of local professionals, from within the Council and voluntary and community sector. The due diligence process will assess the applicant suitability, supporting documentation and financial stability and track record of working with children and young people in RBKC.

Alongside the documentation submitted, applicants will be assessed on their track record, safeguarding, health and safety, accounts, and communications.

Following the recommendation of a panel of professionals, a representative group of local young people will visit applicants to assess their sessions and ask additional questions of the applicants.

Should an organisation wish to challenge the process, they should do so in writing to the Children's Commissioning team.

The Council is accountable for decisions and the Executive Director of Children's Services will approve all grants being awarded.

Will I get feedback on my application?

All organisations will receive an outcome, decision and feedback on their application.

Will my contract be with RBKC or Young K&C?

Successful applicants will sign a grant agreement for Main Grants with RBKC and with Young K&C, similar to current arrangements for the Holiday Activities and Food programme.

Grant agreements for Small Grants and Making Space will be between Young K&C and the successful applicant.

When will we receive the funding?

Successful applicants to the Main Grants and Making Space will be paid at 6 monthly intervals in advance, by Young K&C, starting from 1 April 2025. Successful applicants to the Small Grants will receive their payment in one instalment

The first payment will be subject to signing contracts, meeting any conditions of the grant and listing activities on the Our City website.

Subsequent payments will be subject to successful completion of monitoring data and maintaining up to date information on the Our City website.

What monitoring and reporting will I have to do?

For successful applicants, monitoring and evaluation for each grant will be required for submission via plinth. Plinth aims to enable voluntary organisations to collect data and evidence outcomes effectively.

Monitoring for Main Grants will include regular uploading of project data on Plinth, along with a monitoring form and visit from RBKC every 6 months.

Monitoring for this Small Grants will be required at the end of the project.

Monitoring for Making Space Grants will be required every 6 months.

All successful applicants may be visited by Young K&C and its Young Ambassadors, as part of the monitoring process.

RBKC and Young K&C will review organisational performance annually, and the amount of funding may be adjusted accordingly. At the end of year 3, the Council will formally review the arrangements which will include performance, allocations, whether the model is meeting the priorities and the gaps identified in the review. If the model is working well, the Council will extend for a further 2 years.

Why is RBKC using this funding model?

We are using this new funding model to create a whole system approach to supporting local children and young people. We aim to work in partnership to strengthen pathways and services between the voluntary sector and RBKC.

We believe that this model will help to strengthen partnership working and generate additional income for youth and play provision in the borough. The partnership with Young K&C will enable us to involve more voluntary organisations and increase funding for the sector.

We will organise opportunities for local voluntary organisations to come together to share best practice, network and to celebrate achievements.

Young K&C will work to raise £750,000 in match funding over five years. The Council will hold Young K&C accountable by closely monitoring the progress of additional match funding.

Will Young K&C be in competition with other local organisations for funding?

Young K&C does not deliver front line services for children and young people itself and does not compete for funding with its member organisations.

Young K&C will generate funding through partnerships with funders and donors and consortium development.

Why are you doing visits with young people?

We believe that young people are best placed to decide on services and opportunities that are designed for them. Young people visiting in person gives the opportunities for them to view the premises, meet staff and young people who use the services and come to a more informed decision.

Visiting in person helps applicants who may face access barriers to the application, including neurodiversity and English as a second language, have equal opportunities to discuss their applications.

Young people will be trained in grant assessment by Young K&C. Young people have asked to visit applicants to better understand the range of services available to local young people and support their assessment of applications.

Why is the application process so long?

Young K&C and RBKC have worked to keep the application process as short as possible, whilst gathering the information we need to be able to take informed decisions about quality provision. This is why we are asking for key documents relating to Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Risk Assessment and training of staff and volunteers.

The application process for Small Grants and Making Space is shorter to make it proportionate for smaller projects.

The Grants will be open for applications for 8 weeks to give applicants maximum opportunity to apply. Applicants can save their draft applications as they go along.

Using the plinth database should enable us to reduce the impact on organisations in future, as data will be gathered in one place.

This grants process is significantly shorter than a commissioning process (which we have done previously) and is tailored for the voluntary sector.

What is the Council's learning from previous models?

Learning from our previous models includes the need to:

- Diversify funding across a wider range of local providers to draw on the strengths of the local VCS sector
- Refresh the offer and design of services linked to priorities identified by local young people
- Strengthen youth voice and youth engagement
- Support opportunities for capacity building, training and networking with voluntary sector organisations
- Better promote youth services through a dedicated digital platform
- Establish a set of principles that all commissioned providers work towards
- Deliver value for money youth services

What relationship will the sector have with the Council under the new arrangements?

This will remain relatively unchanged. Grant agreements for Main Grants will be between the Council and the successful applicants, similar to the current arrangements for Holiday Activity and Food.

The Council's contract managers will continue to work with successful providers to undertake visits to monitor and report on the success of the service. Council commissioners will also be heavily involved in working with the sector to support the delivery of the joint delivery programme.

Who is responsible for Safeguarding?

The Council will still hold statutory responsibilities for safeguarding and the escalation and management of serious incidents. Any safeguarding concerns should be reported directly to our Safeguarding helpline on 020 73613013 following the usual protocols.

The Council and Young K&C work closely with the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership and the LSCP will be involved in the due diligence process for these grants.

Organisations will not be required to submit a Section 11 Audit as part of the application process. We may work with organisations that are successful for funding to ensure this is completed before the start of delivery.